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## Public Service.

*Distinction in pay between clerks who graduate on first appointment and those who do so subsequent to it.*

* 29 Q.—Rao Sahib P. V. Gopalan: Will the hon. the Member for Finance be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether it is a fact that the Government have recently ordered that the grant of graduate allowance contemplated in G.O. No. 1025, Finance, dated 21st January 1922, applies only to clerks who graduate on first appointment;

(*b*) if so, the circumstances that necessitated the issue of such an order;

(*c*) why the Government wish to make a distinction between clerks who graduate on first appointment and those who do so subsequent to it; and

(*d*) whether such clerks will have to refund the allowance already drawn?

*A.*—(*a*), (*b*) & (*c*) The object of the discretion allowed by G.O. No. 1025, dated 14th October 1921, to heads of departments to give a higher initial pay to graduates appointed to clerical posts is clearly stated in G.O. No. 74, Finance, dated 21st January 1922, namely, to attract where necessary a better class of candidates. It therefore applies solely to those who are graduates when they first enter service, and is restricted to cases where their recruitment is considered necessary.

(*d*) Any cases where a refund has been demanded as a result of a wrong application of the rule will be considered on their merits.

## Telephones.

*The use of telephones by the Government.*

* 30 Q.—Mr. T. Adinarayana Chettiyar: Will the hon. the Member for Finance be pleased to state—

(*a*) how many telephones are being subscribed for by Government;

(*b*) what is the total cost of these telephone connexions to Government per year;

(*c*) whether the Government enjoy any special rate and if so what is the rate; and

(*d*) whether the Government have made any grants, leases or special facilities to the Madras Telephone Company?

*A.*—(*a*) This Government have subscribed for about 400 telephones (220 connexions direct with the Madras Telephone Company's Exchange and 180 extensions from some of the direct connexions).

(*b*) The total cost of the connexions is roughly Rs. 55,000 per year.

(*c*) The Government are allowed a reduction of 25 per cent on the rates charged to private subscribers.

(*d*) The Government have assigned an extent of 21,000 square feet of land in R.S. No. 11378, Esplanade, Georgetown, subject to payment of the approximate market value and ground-rent.

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(*f*) whether from a statistical point of view the Chowghat hospital is more popular and serviceable than the Ponnani hospital;

(*g*) whether it is a fact that the district board proposes to continue the Ponnani hospital as such; and

(*h*) whether the Government agree with the district board that in case one of the two should be abolished it is the Chowghat hospital that should be done so?

*A.*—(*a*) A petition was received.

(*b*) The answer is in the negative.

(*c*) The answer to the first part is in the negative. The second part of the question does not arise.

(*d*) The hon. Member is referred to statement H annexed to the annual returns of civil hospitals and dispensaries which have been placed on the Editors' Table.

The Government have no information as to the contribution made by the district board.

(*e*) From a report, dated 23rd March 1925, submitted by the District Medical Officer, Malabar, to the Surgeon-General, the Government understand that the public of Chowghat have recently built a big ward in the hospital at a cost of nearly Rs. 6,000.

(*f*) Statistics of attendance in recent years show that both the hospitals are more or less equally popular and serviceable.

(*g*) The Government have no information.

(*h*) The Government have had no occasion to consider the question and cannot therefore express an opinion.

Mr. K. PRABHAKARAN TAMPAN:—"May I know whether Government have received any proposal with reference to this hospital, and if so, when it comes up before them will they be pleased to consider it?"

The hon. the RAJA OF PANAGAL:—"When the proposal comes up it will be considered."

The RAJA OF RAMNAD:—"Are presidents of local bodies permitted to make their own appointments in the hospital without obtaining the consent of the Surgeon-General?"

The hon. the RAJA OF PANAGAL:—"In the case of the appointment of ayurvedic doctors, there is no necessity for consulting the Surgeon-General. What the Government expect the local bodies is that qualified men are appointed as doctors."

The RAJA OF RAMNAD:—"In the case of dispensaries, where sub-assistant surgeons are usually placed by the Surgeon-General, may I know whether the Minister can pass orders restricting his powers of withdrawal of those surgeons without the consent of the local bodies concerned?"

The hon. the PRESIDENT:—"Will the hon. Member indicate the clauses upon which he puts his supplementary questions?"

The RAJA OF RAMNAD:—"Clauses (*a*) and (*b*)."